

**Introduced by Committee on Public Employment and
Retirement (Soto (Chair), Karnette, and Scott)**

February 20, 2003

An act to amend Section 22790 of the Government Code, relating to the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 574, as introduced, Committee on Public Employment and Retirement. Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act.

The Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act permits the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System to contract with carriers for health benefits plans and major medical plans for employees and annuitants, and approve other specified plans.

This bill would make nonsubstantive, technical changes to a provision of that act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 22790 of the Government Code is
2 amended to read:
3 22790. (a) The board may contract with carriers for health
4 benefits plans for employees and annuitants and major medical
5 plans or approve health ~~benefit~~ *benefits* plans offered by employee
6 organizations, provided that the carriers have operated
7 successfully in the prepaid hospital and medical care field prior to
8 the contracting for or approval ~~thereof~~ *of those plans*. The plans
9 may include hospital benefits, surgical benefits, in-hospital

1 medical benefits, outpatient benefits, and obstetrical benefits, and
2 benefits offered by a bona fide church, sect, denomination or
3 organization whose principles include healing entirely by prayer
4 or spiritual means. The board shall contract with a sufficient
5 number of carriers and plans that provide chiropractic services so
6 that every employee and annuitant ~~shall have~~ *has* a reasonable
7 opportunity to enroll in a plan that provides chiropractic services
8 without prior referral by a physician. The board may contract with
9 health maintenance organizations approved under Title XIII of the
10 federal Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 201 et seq.).

11 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the board
12 also may contract with health plans offering unique or specialized
13 health services.

14 (c) (1) The board shall approve any employee association
15 health benefits plan that was approved by the board in the 1987–88
16 contract year or any year prior to that date, provided the plan
17 continues to meet the minimum standards prescribed by the board.

18 (2) The recognized employee organization for State
19 Bargaining Unit 6 may offer different medical plan designs with
20 varying rates in different areas of the state.

21 (d) The board shall provide and administer any health benefits
22 or other coverage extended at county cost under Section 77208,
23 upon receipt of a resolution from a county board of supervisors
24 electing to come under the administrative provisions of this part
25 for the coverage specified in the resolution.

